

Spring is just around the corner. The moisture during the winter months has been a blessing. With the wheat crop that is in the ground and continued moisture this spring, we could see a very good wheat crop. It is estimated that we have around 25% more acres planted to wheat in our area. Elevators are being made ready for the expected crop. Fertilizer prices have been dropping this winter and have made a dent in the input side of the profit equation. If we can keep grain prices in the area they are now, there should be a reasonable profit to be made.

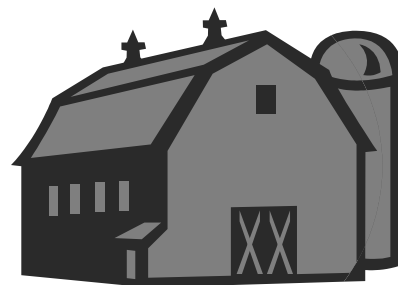
Facility upgrades at our Burden location are still being made. The 100,000 bushel grain bin is up. The loading and unloading equipment are in the process of being installed. The facility will be ready by wheat harvest.

The past year was a tough one on our NH3 nurse equipment. We had to replace 20+ units that did not pass an integrity test. It only takes a small nick in a tank to put it out of service. I ask all patrons using this equipment to take special care to avoid instances where a tank can be damaged. This was about a \$150,000 price tag to your coop to replace the equipment. New regulations may cause the loss of one of the big NH 3 storage tanks at our Hackney location. They are pushing for more regulations on the way your children are able to help on the farm as well. It looks like they may back off to some degree on some of this regulation, but it will continue to pop up from time to time. Be sure you know your Senator and Representative so that you can have a say in what happens in your operations. It may pay dividends in the future as we continue to battle for common sense legislation.

Valley Coop, Inc is saying good bye to an 18 + year employee. Jim Mitchell the location manager at our Hackney facility has decided to take retirement from the cooperative world. I have had the pleasure to work with Jim the past 11 years and appreciate what he has done for the cooperative over his tenure. We will miss his knowledge and wit. We do wish Jim the best in his retirement and whatever he does to fill his time in the future. Thanks Jim for your friendship and dedication to Valley Coop, Inc and it's members.

As we say good bye to Jim, we also want to extend a welcome to our new Hackney location manager, Todd Lawhon. Todd comes to us from the Pride Ag Resources Cooperative (formerly the Dodge City Coop) as a location manager in Kingsdown, Kansas. Todd is originally from the Blackwell, OK area and is pleased to be back closer to home. If you get the chance to come by the Hackney location please stop by and introduce yourself to Todd. He is ready to be of service to you. We look forward to a long and beneficial relationship with Todd as a part of the Valley Coop, Inc. team.

Richard Kimbrel
General Manager



NEWS FROM THE SOUTHLAND

Hello to everyone from Hackney, America.

To start, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Todd Lawhon. I will be replacing Jim Mitchell as Branch Manager at the Hackney location. We would like to extend our thanks to Jim for all of his years of service and exceptional customer relationships he has built through the years.

Originally, I'm from Blackwell, OK, but have spent the last 7 years in the Dodge City area as a Branch Manager for Pride Ag Resources. In May of 2004 I graduated from Oklahoma State with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science and minor in Ag Business. Upon graduation, I worked for Blackwell Co-op as a Branch Manager at the Bender location west of Newkirk. I've been in the grain industry for about 10 years now and really enjoy working with the local producers and being part of the Ag community. My wife's name is Chandice and we have a 2 year old little boy named Gus. We enjoy horseback riding, hunting, fishing, camping and just about anything to do with the rural lifestyle. I look forward to meeting our patrons and getting to know the area so please come by and chat with me when you get a spare moment.

As far as local news, things around Hackney are going pretty well at the moment. The upcoming wheat crop looks promising as long as we continue to get a little help from Mother Nature. I don't want to get too optimistic, but we're in lot better shape than what I thought we might be back in August. Looks like we're about done with top-dress and residual application but please let us know if we can be of any service. Thanks for your patronage and continued support of your cooperative. We look forward to serving the patrons of Valley Co-op and please let us know your application needs or any other concerns as we move forward this spring.

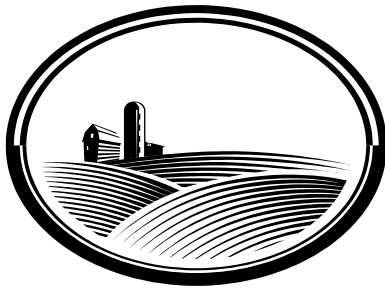
Todd, Stacie, Les, Dustin, Tyler, Chance and Court

HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?



Q: Why did the farmer feed his cow money?

A: Because he wanted rich milk.



FIELDNOTES

Recently the 4 R's have been making news. It has surfaced in farm publications, extension newsletters and farm service agency notes. 4 R's stands for applying the right fertilizer, in the right amount, at the right time, to the right place for the crops we grow. Will this mean there are big changes to the way we apply fertilizer? The answer is Yes and No.

Everyone in Agriculture should be paying close attention to what is happening in the states surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. With President Obama's blessing in 2009 and the EPA establishing nutrient guidelines in 2010, the final Total Daily Maximum Load or TDML for discharge of Nitrogen, Phosphorus and sediment from farmland into streams that feed the bay have been established. Many producers from the states surrounding the bay are finding they now have limitations to how much fertilizer they can use.

What is concerning is that the model EPA is using to restore the Chesapeake Bay is expected to be used nationwide and the states surrounding the Mississippi River are next. Will that affect us locally? It's not for me to say, but I do plan to be involved in the process before EPA implements anything in the Midwest. I feel it is best to be forewarned and prepared with any new guide lines that may affect us.

Using existing fertilizers in new ways is part of the 4 R's. Looking at new products and application methods is another way. Some examples are foliar feeding and putting starter blends right in the seed trench under the seed. Using low salt starter blends at the right rate is the key. Today N, P, K, S and micro's can be applied in the seed trench at planting and also tank mixed with herbicides when spraying weeds to foliar feed your crop.

Your Coop is working with manufacturing companies to bring slow release Nitrogen's, seed treatment applied micronutrients, seed trench liquid starters, biological products and foliar applied nutrients to you. Most if not all are available today along with testing of soil and tissues for analysis.

4 R's - RIGHT Fertilizer, RIGHT Amount, RIGHT Time, RIGHT Place. You could say that many of the tools necessary for the 4 R's are already in place. Our neighbors around the Chesapeake Bay are now fighting an uphill battle, a warning shot has been fired to us in the form of potential EPA guidelines. What we do with it is up to us.

Feel free to give me a call to discuss any of the fertilizers or application methods. Your patronage is very much appreciated.

Kirk Kennedy

Seed, Agronomy, Seed Treatments

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OFFICE CHATTER

The Main Office will be getting ready for our fiscal year-end March 31, 2012 with auditors scheduled to come in April. Part of the audit includes accounts receivable, grain storage, Certificate of Indebtedness and Demand Certificate confirmations. Customers are selected at random by the auditors to confirm requested balance information. If you receive one or more of these letters, please take the time to confirm the balance, sign, and return the letters as quickly as possible. When the auditors come to the office late April, they will have a list of all accounts that did NOT return the confirmations. At that point, Rebecca and I will have to start making calls to get the confirmations returned to our office. Our Annual Meeting is again scheduled in the latter part of May- with Annual Meeting notices being mailed out the first week of May. We look forward to doing business with each of you another year.

Donna Fagg
Office Manager

Hello From Beautiful Downtown Winfield

Well, we could not have asked for a more perfect snow, every bit stayed on the fields. Great timing on Mother Nature's part.

We would like you to come visit us here on Manning Street and see all the dog treats we have along with dog collars, dog food and also your seven-in-one shots to keep your best friend in good health.

Spring is just around the corner—time to fertilize and maybe re-seed your lawn.

As always, we have wild bird feed, black oil sunflowers, Niger seed and also safflower seed.



We also have a few bird feeders for your feathered friends.

We are here for you!

Ron, Bob and Todd



We have been busy with fertilizer application. Thanks so much to all of you who have been supplying us with maps. It makes it so much easier for new drivers to find their way around when they aren't familiar with the area.

We offer dry fertilizer, liquid fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia. We apply both liquid and dry fertilizer plus we have available PTO driven spreader wagons and a NH₃ applicator tool.

Row crop planting is just around the corner. We are ready to help you with your pre-plant herbicide applications and burn down. We need to develop a plan for attacking those herbicide resistant plants that are appearing. Some great new residual herbicides have come on the market in the last few years. Please stop by and take a look at what might fit your needs. The problem is becoming serious and we need to address it early.

We have bulk feed bins at our location. We have 20% nuggets, 20% cubes and 16% cubes available. At this time the 20% nuggets seem to be the most popular and the best buy for the money. If you would like to know more please give us a call.

Remember we are still your one stop shopping location in the north. We offer sacked feeds, tires, animal health supplies, fencing supplies and gates, bolts and nuts and a variety of automotive supplies.

The coffee is always ready, so come in for a cup. Bring the youngsters for a lollipop and the family dog for a dog treat. We would love to see you all. Hoping to see you soon,

Darren & the Atlanta Crew—Katherine, Jimmie, Terri, Mike and Andy

News from Burden and New Salem

It finally got a little wet around here. The moisture is sure to help the wheat crop which is looking pretty good.

We still have a mess down around our bins. The new silo is built, but we still have a pit to dig and a new leg to put up, and a bunch of spouts in between, but I'm sure we will get it finished by harvest time. We got some of our buildings spruced up a bit. We have a new roof on our fertilizer building and a new roof on our shop building, on the west side of the street.

Thanks to everyone, we are going through a lot of feed this winter. All in all things are going pretty well, so come and see us. Thanks for your patronage

Bill, Nick, Bobby



South of the Border Lasagna

Recipe Submitted by Donna Fagg

2 lbs. ground beef	1 (14.5 oz.) can diced tomatoes
1 medium onion, chopped	1 pkg. taco seasoning mix (1 oz.)
1 clove garlic, chopped	1 lb. Colby or Cheddar Cheese, shredded
1 (10 oz.) can cream of mushroom soup	1 Bag of Doritos

Optional toppings: lettuce, tomatoes, black olives and sour cream

Brown ground beef with onion and garlic. While beef is cooking, in a separate bowl, mix soup (no water added), diced tomatoes, and taco seasoning mix, set aside. After beef is browned, drain excess grease; place beef back into skillet. Pour soup mixture over beef; simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Spray a 9x13-inch baking dish lightly with non-stick pan coating. Place a layer of Doritos on bottom of pan, followed by a layer of half the beef mixture and half of the cheese. Repeat the layers. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Let set 10 minutes before serving. Top with any or all of the optional toppings: shredded lettuce, tomatoes, black olives and sour cream.